

**Northfield Open Space Committee
Minutes, January 21, 2014
Town Hall – Planning Board Room**

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

Present: Mike Barry, Bob Hall, Sue Ross, Jenny Tufts, Jerry Wagener
Absent: Joanne McGee, Kate Rossiter
Guest: Sue Handren

The meeting opened at 7:30. Jenny Tufts volunteered to serve as temporary secretary for the meeting.

The Chair proposed an addition to the Agenda to discuss Northfield Mount Hermon land that may be available to the Town for purchase and noted that Sue Handren would be attending the meeting on behalf of the Recreation Commission to discuss this item.

The next item was approval of the December meeting Minutes. A motion to approve was made by JT/SR. (Approved 5/0/0)

Jerry Wagener then informed the committee about meetings with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and Bob Macomber of NMH concerning NMH property for sale adjacent and south of Pauchaug State Boat Ramp. (See attached map, land outlined in yellow/red.) The discussions involve the town acquiring this land for community park purposes as long as nothing be built on it that would obscure the view across the river from the Moody Birthplace. Sue Handren said the Recreation Commission is interested in this land for regulation baseball and softball fields; soccer fields can be fit in during “off” seasons.

There was still the concern of impacts from the old dump on the property and parking. Mike Barry noted that the Conservation Commission still has a request out on work done to restore the landfill before it will sign off on a Notice of Intent concerning this land. Sue Ross suggested the Town pay for an evaluation on the suitability of this property for playing fields with flooding in mind.

Next steps would include exploring liability for the landfill or perhaps removing that area from the sale. Jerry Wagener will contact the Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Jack Spanbauer.

Under Member Comments Sue Ross reported that the annual MA Land Conservation Conference brochures were out and that the Library now has a grant to do programs on the theme of “Reading the Forested Landscape, beginning March 22nd”. Mike Barry mentioned a current proposal by two local foresters to promote local wood products, and that a Firewood Workshop for land owners is planned at the Town Forest the end of. They are also working to establish a firewood “pantry.”

The Committee revisited The 2013 Citizen Stewardship Award recipient is Bill Llewelyn; Jenny Tufts to follow up with Bill and arrange for the announcement.

Jerry Wagener reported on the planning for trail kiosks. There is money from the budget to cover 3 of the proposed kiosks - for Hobo Falls, the top of Alexander Hill, and King Philip's Hill. The committee opted for the options of 3/16" plexiglass and cedar shingles.

The article Jerry Wagener has written for the Northfield Newsletter will come out in April. Further changes to the article were discussed including whether NMH trails should be included. It was decided that NMH should be consulted before any further action is taken.

Respectfully submitted by

Jennifer Tufts

1/6/14